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Gorhams of Hardwick, Mass.



GORHAMS

OF

HARDWICK, MASS.

By HENRY S. GORHAM.

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GORHAMS OF HARDWICK, MASS.

THE first of the Gorhams in Hardwick was Stephen,⁴ and his name first appears in Hardwick in the record of his marriage, March 16, 1758.* to Sarah Freeman, daughter of John and Joanna (Rickett) Freeman, who was born Oct. 15, 1737.† He was the son of Josiah³ (*Joseph*,² *John*¹) and Priscilla (Sears) Gorham, of Yarmouth, and was born in that town, July 29, 1735.‡ He died Jan. 28, 1806, and his wife died March 27, 1820.

Children:§

2. i. JOHN,⁵ b. Jan. 4, 1759; d. April 24, 1847.
3. ii. JOSIAH, b. June 12, 1760; d. April 2, 1849.
4. iii. STEPHEN, b. July 19, 1762; d. Jan., 1825.
5. iv. SILAS, b. April 19, 1764; d. July 23, 1829.
6. v. JOSEPH, b. Feb. 13, 1766; d. Jan. 8, 1819.
7. vi. DAVID, b. June 17, 1768.
- vii. CHALLIS, b. Feb. 23, 1770.
- viii. JOANNA, b. June 6, 1771; m. July 1, 1793, Mayo Luce.
- ix. PRISCILLA, b. — 26, 1773.
- x. ELI, b. May 10, 1775.
8. xi. BARNABAS, b. Sept. 18, 1777;|| d. 1812.
9. xii. ELNATHAN, b. June 10, 1778;¶ d. Sept. 11, 1824.

There is no record in Worcester of the settlement of Stephen Gorham's estate. Little is known regarding Stephen, except his military service. He was in Capt. Samuel Robinson's Co., March 13 to Dec. 1, 1758, and in Capt. Ebenezer Cox's Co., March 4 to Dec. 19, 1762.** He was sergeant in Capt. Simon Hazeltine's Co. of minute-men, which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775, service 16 days. Also ensign in Capt. Samuel Billings's Co., Col. Ebenezer Learned's Regt., 8 months, from May 4, 1775.*†† He was second lieutenant in Capt. Benjamin Warren's Co., Col. Ichabod Alden's Regt., and afterwards first lieutenant; and was first lieutenant in Capt. Benjamin Nye's Co., Col. Nathan Sparhawk's Regt., Sept. 17 to Dec. 12, 1778.‡‡

2. JOHN⁵ GORHAM (*Stephen*,⁴ *Josiah*,³ *Joseph*,² *John*¹), born in Hardwick, Mass., Jan. 4, 1759; died April 24, 1847, aged 88‡‡; married June 3, 1784,§§ Mary Dexter, daughter of Capt. Samuel Dexter. She died Feb. 29, 1826, aged 63.||| John⁵ Gorham was at the Dorchester camp, Feb. 15, 1776, in Capt. Barnabas Sears's Co.¶¶; pri-

* Early Mass. Marriages, Vol. i., p. 118. Paige's Hist. of Hardwick, p. 385.

† Freeman Genealogy, p. 91. Paige's Hist. of Hardwick, p. 389.

‡ REGISTER, Vol. 52 (1898), p. 359.

§ The dates of birth of the first ten children appear on the Hardwick records. Paige's Hist. of Hardwick, p. 385.

|| Record in Bible of Elbridge Gerry Peirce, now in possession of Mrs. Edward Capehart, of Newport, R. I.: "Barney Gorham, born Sept. 18, 1777, in Linden, Vermont." See facsimile of part of letter from Josiah Gorham (3) to John Gorham (2).

¶ Record in Bible in possession of Mrs. Henry M. Whittemore, of Troy, N. H.: "Elnathan Gorham, son of Stephen and Sarah Gorham, born June 10, 1778."

** Paige's Hist. of Hardwick, pp. 266, 267, 269, 270.

†† Mass. Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolution, Vol. vi., p. 649.

‡‡ Paige's Hist. of Hardwick, p. 385.

§§ Early Mass. Marriages, vol. i, p. 126.

||| Gravestone in 10th Dist. Cemetery, Barre, Mass.

¶¶ Paige's Hist. of Hardwick, Mass., p. 272.

vate in Capt. Timothy Paige's Co., Col. James Conyer's Regt., Aug. 21 to Aug. 31, 1777; in Capt. Benjamin Warren's Co., Col. Brooks's Regt., March 10, 1778, to Dec. 31, 1780, first as private, and later as corporal; sergeant in Capt. Asa Coburn's (Light Infantry) Co., Lieut.-Col. John Brooks's Regt., from Feb., 1781, until discharged, June 10, 1783. Received honorary badge for faithful service.* He lived in Barre, Mass., where he served as school commissioner, selectman and assessor.†

Children:‡

- i. THOMAS,⁶ d. Dec. 15, 1867, aged 83 years, 3 mos. and 10 days;§ m. Dec. 12, 1811, Hannah Utley, dau. of James and Mary Utley, b. Pomfret, Conn., d. Aug. 19, 1863, aged 69, bur. at Claremont, Minn.
- ii. SUSAN, m. (pub. Nov. 27, 1896), Nathan Taylor.
- iii. JOHN, bap. Feb. 10, 1805.
- iv. SALLY, bap. March 21, 1805; d. March 1, 1830, aged 37.§
- v. DE LAFAYETTE, bap. March 21, 1805; d. Dec. 19, 1873, aged 79, in Barre; m. Lucinda Flagg.

3. JOSHUA⁵ GORHAM (*Stephen*,⁴ *Josiah*,³ *Joseph*,² *John*¹), born in Hardwick, June 12, 1760; died in Richmond, Me., April 2, 1819; married in Edgecomb, Me., Aug. 21, 1800, Martha Leeman, of North Edgecomb, Me., born 1782, died in Dresden, Me., May 14, 1859, aged 77.¶ Josiah Gorham made application for a Revolutionary War pension, April 4, 1818, at the age of 58, residence Edgecomb, Me., and a pension was allowed for three years' actual service as fifer in the Massachusetts troops,[¶] and he was placed on pension roll March 25, 1819. After his death, his widow received a pension.** He wrote, before his death, an account of his Revolutionary service, which is quoted below.†† This is in the possession of his grandson, Mr. Charles F. Gorham, of Richmond, Me.

In 1813, Josiah and his wife moved from Edgecomb to live with their son Joseph, at Richmond, Me.

Children:

- i. STEPHEN,⁶ b. Nov. 8, 1802,‡‡
- ii. DANIEL, b. June 2, 1804,‡‡

* Mass. Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolution, Vol. vi., p. 645.

† Barre Centennial, p. 257.

‡ Paige's Hist. of Hardwick, Mass., p. 385.

§ Gravestone in 10th Dist. Cemetery, Barre, Mass.

¶ The record of Josiah Gorham and his family was furnished by his grandson, Mr. Charles F. Gorham, of Richmond, Me.

* Mass. Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolution, Vol. vi., p. 647.

** Pension Records, Washington, D. C.

†† "Enlisted in the Continental Army, the month of March 1777 in the 7th Mass. Regt. Commanded by Col. Ichabod Alden, in Capt. Benja. Warren's Company. Joined the troops at Albany after the surrender of General Burgoyne. The Spring following our Regt. was detached from the Brigade and sent on to Cherry Valley (about seventy miles from Albany), where we resided for the space of eleven months, but on the 11th of Nov. 1778 we had a severe battle with the British Tories and Indians, where we had the misfortune to lose our Col., Lt. Col. taken prisoner, and a considerable number of Officers and soldiers shared the same unhappy fate, but in spite of them we maintained our ground, kept the fort and gained the victory. The Spring following we had orders from Genl. Washington to join Genl. Sullivan who was about to march through the Indian country, (viz.) the Genesee and Seneca tribes, where we burned and destroyed forty odd settlements of Indians, with the loss of few men, when we returned we had orders to march to West Point, lying on Hudson River in the State of N. York, where we took our winter quarters. Soon after Lt. Col. John Brooks was made Col. and took the command of the 7th Mass. Regt. and Capt. Wm. Mills of Capt. Warren's Company. Thus I continued in the service during the war as I enlisted. The remainder part of the time (as near as I can recollect) I was in the State N. Jersey and N. York, where we had the happy news that Peace was ratified, and was discharged June 11th at New Windsor 1783."

‡‡ Nothing further is known of these children.

- iii. SALOME, b. March 2, 1807; d. Sept. 7, 1892, aged 85; m. William Moffatt of Boston.
- iv. JOHN, b. 1809.*
- v. JOSEPH,⁶ b. Sept. 2, 1811; d. June 8, 1893, aged 82; m. Oct. 9, 1836, Elizabeth Mayers, of Dresden, Me., who d. June 28, 1889. He settled in Richmond, Me., and in 1852 moved to West Dresden, Me. Children: 1. *Josiah Rodney*, b. Oct. 12, 1838. 2. *Charles Frederic*, b. April 5, 1840. 3. *Salome Moffatt*, b. June 24, 1843. 4. *Frances Ella*, b. April 2, 1848. 5. *Joseph Llewellyn*, b. Sept. 21, 1855.
- vi. SILAS, b. 1813; lost at sea, 1845, aged 32; m. in Boston,† Sept. 11, 1841, by Rev. Jethro Howe, Wealthy Wright, b. in Corinth, Vt., Feb. 18, 1810; d. Aug. 8, 1866. Child: *Charles Edward*, b. Aug. 6, 1842; lives in St. Johnsbury, Vt.
- vii. ELECTRA, b. 1814; d. Nov. 2, 1860, aged 46; m. John Duffy of Boston. Child: *Mortha*, d. April 27, 1860, aged 23.
- viii. HANNAH, b. April 16, 1817; d. March 14, 1891, aged 74; m. Albert Moulton of Oakdale, Cal.
- ix. BETSY, b. 1819; d. in infancy.
- x. ELI, b. 1821; d. Dec. 10, 1853, aged 32.
- xi. LOIS, b. 1825; d. Jan. 2, 1851, aged 26.

Josiah⁵ Gorham wrote a letter to his brother John, from Edgecomb, Feb. 11, 1838, a facsimile of part of which accompanies this article. This extract proves that Barnabas Gorham was a brother of Josiah. Below are given some other extracts from this letter,‡ which is in the possession of Mrs. Edward Capehart of Newport, R. I., a great granddaughter of Barnabas Gorham.

4. STEPHEN⁵ GORHAM (*Stephen*,⁴ *Josiah*,³ *Joseph*,² *John*¹), born July 19, 1762; died Jan. 7, 1825, aged 62; married Nov. 6, 1798, Lettice Thurston, who died April 22, 1831, aged 55, daughter of Samuel Thurston.¶ He was a private in Capt. Adam Henry's Co. of guards, Jan. 9 to April 4, 1779; also in Capt. Timothy Paige's Co., Col. John Rand's Regt., July 5 to Oct. 10, 1780.§

Jan. 17, 1825, Lettice Gorham asked that her son Hiram should administer upon the estate of his father, Stephen Gorham of Hardwick.||

Children:¶

- i. HIRAM,⁶ b. Aug. 30, 1799; d. April 15, 1880, at Worcester; m. Nov. 26, 1829, Mary M. Taylor, dau. of Sylvanus Taylor.
- ii. LEWIS, b. March 15, 1801; d. Jan. 26, 1868, at Springfield; m. Oct. 15, 1827, Mary G. Whitman of Providence.**
- iii. SALLY WESTON, b. April 20, 1803; d. Dec. 19, 1857; m. Nov. 28, 1837, as his third wife, Beals Thomas, b. June 29, 1781, d. Aug. 24, 1854. Child: *Sarah Jane*, b. Sept. 21, 1840.††

* Nothing further known of him.

† Boston Records.

‡ "I often consider that it is owing entirely to the mercy of God that he has pleased to lengthen out our lives to such an advanced age, while he has cut down those of our family who were much younger than ourselves, and has permitted us, even the two eldest of the family, to grow old together. . . . I am sorry that I can not hear from David, Eli and Eleazer and Chellis. You must inform me something about them the next time you write, if you can. . . . I feel a great anxiety to see the place of my nativity and all that hinders is the scarcity of money, or nearly all that hinders, for I am far advanced in years, yet I think I could perform the journey as my health is very good, but I have reason to fear I shall never see old Hardwick again, but still I live in hopes that I shall."

§ Mass. Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolution, Vol. vi., p. 649.

¶ Worcester Probate Records, Dec. 24871.

¶ Paige's Hist. of Hardwick, p. 385; Thurston Gen., 2d ed., p. 128.

** Vital Record of R. I., Vol. x, p. 317.

†† Descendants of William Thomas, p. 75.

- iv. LUCINDA, b. March 15, 1805; d. Feb. 23, 1870.
- v. CHESTER FIELD, b. March 16, 1807; d. Dec. 19, 1874; m. Nov. 20, 1832, Sarah R. Baker. Children: 1. *Charles L.*, b. May 11, 1838. 2. *Mary Ellen*, b. April 11, 1843.
- vi. JOSEPH WARREN, b. March 21, 1809; d. July 18, 1855, at Springfield, Mass.; m.* Sarah N. Rogers, Nov. 11, 1814, dau. of Thomas and Emily (Richmond) Rogers.
- vii. WILLIAM OSMAN,† b. Oct. 10, 1811; d. June 29, 1812.
- viii. WILLIAM OSMAN, b. Sept. 19, 1814; d. Nov. 7, 1869, at Athol, Mass., Amherst College, 1838. (See "Northampton Antiquities," p. 307.)
- ix. ELBRIDGE, b. April 8, 1818; d. at Worcester, Nov. 19, 1858.

5. SILAS⁵ GORHAM (*Stephen*,⁴ *Josiah*,³ *Joseph*,² *John*¹), born April 19, 1764; died July 23, 1829, aged 65; married Nov. 14, 1784, Cynthia Hammer,‡ Silas Gorham was a private in Capt. William Mills's Co., Lieut.-Col. John Brooks's Regt., enlisted March 27, 1781, for 3 years.§ He was living in Lyndon, Vt., in 1810.|| but moved from there to Danville, Caledonia Co., Vt., where he died. His estate was settled June 17, 1830.* No children are mentioned, there being no property to distribute. Silas Gorham made application for a Revolutionary War pension, April 7, 1818, at the age of 53, residence Danville, Vt., and a pension was allowed for 17 months' actual service as a private in the Massachusetts troops. After his death, his widow made application and received a pension.**

August 18, 1829, Silas's daughter, Cynthia⁶ P. Hanley, wrote to her uncle Josiah Gorham, at Edgecomb, giving the date of her father's death, and describing his last illness. The closing part of the letter†† is quoted below.

6. JOSEPH⁵ GORHAM (*Stephen*,⁴ *Josiah*,³ *Joseph*,² *John*¹), born Feb. 13, 1766; died Jan. 8, 1819, aged 53‡‡; married Ruth Underwood. He resided in Barre, Mass. His will, dated Barre, Mass., Nov. 11, 1818, mentions wife Ruth and son Jason.§§

Child:

- i. JASON,⁶ b. in Hardwick, Mass.; d. in Barre, May 23, 1881, aged 84; m. (1) July 12, 1827, Anna Newcomb, b. Jan. 13, 1804, d. April 9, 1828; m. (2) Ruth Phelps of Ware, Mass.; m. (3) Elizabeth Jenkins of Barre, who d. March 21, 1895, aged 85. He was an assessor, a member of the Massachusetts Senate from Barre, and a director in the Barre Bank.¶¶

* Richmond Genealogy, p. 261.

† Paige's Hist. of Hardwick, Mass., p. 385.

‡ Early Mass. Marriages, Vol. i, p. 126.

§ Mass. Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolution, Vol. vi., p. 648.

|| Town Records.

¶ Probate Records, St. Johnsbury, Vt.

** Pension Records, Washington, D. C.

†† "I have only one brother and one sister that I know are alive. Nabby died in Monson five years ago and left a husband and seven children. Silas died at Natchez seven years ago with the yellow fever. Solomon we know not whether is alive or dead. He you know went to the west and we have not heard from him since Silas died. Mrs. Minor's family are tolerably well. They have one daughter married and she has a son. You have probably heard of the deaths of your brother Joseph, Elnathan, Stephen, together with Uncle John's wife and Aunt Priscilla. The once large family seems fast going to that bourne from whence no traveller returns. Your mother's death I conclude you knew of."

This letter is in possession of Mr. Charles T. Gorham of Richmond, Me., grandson of Josiah Gorham. It furnishes additional proof that Elnathan Gorham was son of Stephen of Hardwick, Mass.

‡‡ Gravestone in 10th Dist. Cemetery, Barre, Mass.

§§ Worcester Probate Records, Dec. 24, 1867.

¶¶ Barre Centennial, p. 257.

7. DAVID⁵ GORHAM (*Stephen*,⁴ *Josiah*,³ *Joseph*,² *John*¹), born June 17, 1768; married first, August 8, 1791, Jane Luce, daughter of Experience and Anna (Lawrence) Luce; married second, Anna Luce, sister of his first wife; married third, Abiel Wickes. He resided in Barre, Mass., where he was a selectman, 1819, and school commissioner, 1814, 1818 and 1820.

Children, by first wife:

- i. LUTHERA,⁶ d. Sept. 27, 1847; m. in Barre, Mass., March 11, 1818, Mason Mandell, who d. July 1, 1825, son of Moses and Abigail (Mason) Mandell.*
- ii. STEPHEN, m. Mary Nutting; lived in St. Albans, Vt.

Children, by second wife:

- iii. SYDNEY, m. (1) Sophia Ferguson; m. (2) Lucy D. Winchell (see Winchell Genealogy); lived in Plattsburg, N. Y.
- iv. FANNY, d. in St. Albans, Vt.
- v. BENJAMIN.
- vi. RAWSON, d. in Buffalo, N. Y.

Children, by third wife:

- vii. LUCIUS, d. young.
- viii. JULIA.
- ix. ELBRIDGE.

8. BARNABAS⁵ GORHAM (*Stephen*,⁴ *Josiah*,³ *Joseph*,² *John*¹), born in Lyndon, Vt., Sept. 18, 1777; killed at Sackett's Harbor in 1812; married, in Hallowell, Me., by Rev. Dr. E. Gillett, Oct. 15, 1802, Jane Johnson, born June 21, 1784, died Sept. 5, 1837, daughter of Benjamin Johnson of Hallowell.† Sept. 12, 1800, Thomas Peck of St. Johnsbury, Caledonia Co., Vt., deeds to Barnabas Gorham of Lyndon, Caledonia Co., Vt., 140 acres, Lot 88, in Sheffield, Vt., for \$300. The same property was deeded by Barnabas Gorham to Isaac Heath of Northfield, N. H., Oct. 20, 1800, for \$350.‡ Barnabas Gorham was a tax-payer in Lyndon, Vt., in 1801.§ Jane Gorham was a tax-payer in Hallowell, Me., in 1826.||

Children¶:

- i. HIRAM,⁶ b. Sept. 22, 1804, in Hallowell, Me.; d. unm.
- ii. SARAH JANE, b. July 13, 1806, in Hallowell, Me.; m. in Hallowell, March 27, 1824, by Rev. Dr. E. Gillett, Elbridge Gerry Peirce, b. Dec. 19, 1801, son of Ebenezer and Charity (Hinds) Peirce.** Their daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Wadley, is mother of Mrs. Sarah Wadley Capehart, wife of Edward Capehart, U. S. N.
- iii. BETSEY, b. in Athens, Me., Nov. 11, 1808.
- iv. OLIVE, b. in Athens, Me., April 22, 1812.

9. ELNATHAN⁵ GORHAM†† (*Stephen*,⁴ *Josiah*,³ *Joseph*,² *John*¹), born June 10, 1778; died Sept. 11, 1821; married first, July, 1802, Jane Ayers, born May 24, 1780, died May 29, 1807, daughter of David and Jane Ayers; married second, August, 1807, Edith Farwell, born at Chesterfield, N. H., April 14, 1790, died Feb. 29, 1816,

* Notes of Miss M. L. Robinson of Lawrence, Kansas, granddaughter of Luther³ Gorham.

† Bible of Elbridge Gerry Peirce.

‡ Town Records, Sheffield, Vt.

§ Town Records, Lyndonville, Vt.

|| Town Records, Hallowell, Me.

¶ Bible of Elbridge Gerry Peirce. Maine Hist. Society, Pub., 1896, Vol. 7, page 329.

** Hinds Genealogy.

†† The record of Elnathan Gorham's family is taken from the Bible in possession of Mrs. H. M. Whittemore.

daughter of Benjamin and Edith Farwell; married third, Dec. 29, 1816, Eliza Wheeler, born August 23, 1794, died August 18, 1863, daughter of Nathan and Rachel Wheeler.

Children, by first wife:

- i. ANNIS ROSS,⁶ b. in Chesterfield, N. H., Nov. 1, 1802; d. in California, Nov., 1851; m. in Hardwick, Mass., Sept. 12, 1822, Seth Hinckley.
- ii. NOYES, b. Sept. 12, 1805; d. Oct. 2, 1821.

Children, by second wife:

- iii. MARY ANN, b. Aug. 17, 1808; d. July 10, 1883, in Bangor, Me.; m. (pub. April 8, 1830) Daniel B. Hinckley of Bucksport, Me.*
- iv. LLOYD, b. Jan. 10, 1810; d. Jan. 1, 1840.
- v. HAMDE, b. Dec. 5, 1811; d. Nov. 13, 1882; m. (1) — Wheeler; m. (2) Lysander Foristal.
- vi. GEORGE W., b. March 16, 1814; d. in Bangor, Me.; m. Mary Langley.
- vii. SARAH E., b. Feb. 21, 1816; d. about 1849, in Bangor, Me.; m. Thomas I. Egery.

Children, by third wife:

- viii. ELIZA W., b. Nov. 14, 1817; d. Dec. 26, 1882; m. June 25, 1854, Earle Clark, b. Nov. 12, 1814. Child: *Jennie G.*, b. Oct. 16, 1856; m. April 25, 1882, Henry M. Whittmore, b. May 30, 1849.
- ix. ELNATHAN C., born May 18, 1820; d. in Central America, May, 1856, aged 36.

Elnathan⁶ Gorham settled in Chesterfield, N. H., about 1800. He was a cloth dresser by trade. About 1807, he built for a dwelling-house the present hotel in that place;† but he removed about 1812 to Massachusetts. In a deed dated Feb. 15, 1819, the residence of Elnathan Gorham and wife Eliza is given as Oakham, Mass. He later moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, and then to Batavia, N. Y., where he died.

June 3, 1822, his widow Eliza gave bond as administratrix of his estate, stating in the petition that she was of Troy, N. H., and had no children 21 years of age.‡

* Paige's Hist. of Hardwick, Mass., p. 385.

† Hist. of Chesterfield, N. H., p. 323.

‡ Records of Keene, N. H.





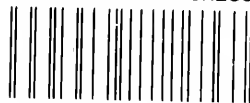


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